The Angel resident

February 2017

RETRO CHINA

The food spot bringing 80s Beijing to Upper Street

MICHELLE DOCKERY

On playing an insatiable American con artist

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FEBRUARY 2017

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Distributed in Islington, Angel, Canonbury, Barnsbury and Highbury Park

Letter from the EDITOR

ELANOR TRAVERS (HAIR) AND ERIN FULLER (MAKE UP), GINA CONWAY PRIVÉ; GINACONWAYPRIVE.COM. PHOTO BY TOM DUNKLEY

People often compare me to Karl Pilkington. They are saying it as a dig, but to me I take it as a compliment – the man speaks sense. An Idiot Abroad? No chance, everything he comments on during his travels is spot on. The reason for the comparison stems from the fact I don't particularly like travelling abroad. Never have done. Then again, I argue with some justification, I don't need to given how culturally diverse we are here in north London, as this issue highlights perfectly.

There's the founder of Bespoke Binny, Natalie Manima, who lets us into her rather colourful world of homeware, so good that the British Library has sat up and taken notice. Manima's work is inspired by Africa and her expertise is rather apt considering Kara O'Reilly also looks at the experts who can add a dashing shade of colour to your home.

From Africa to China, Upper Street is home to Chinese Laundry, which depsite the name has absolutely nothing to do with clothes. They in fact serve up superb food from the northern regions of China, and there's an intriguing back story to it too that you can read about on page 38.

We then stop off in Japan, via Old Street, to find out how the gold standard in lash extension training evolved out of a lash health epidemic in the Far East. Now, I will be honest and admit this isn't my area of expertise, so thankfully Moka & Sarah are here to clarify it all and show us why Japanese techniques are causing many eyelids to flutter.

So, you see, Karl Pilkington is fine by me. Enjoy the issue.

Mark Kebble, Editor

Why bright hues and bold patterns are great for your wellbeing as well as your home

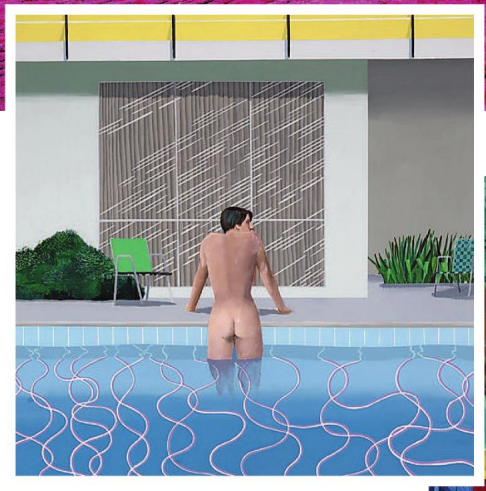
Get prepped and in shape this Valentine's Day

How two fashionistas gave Upper Street a slice of Beijing

Different perspectives

In collaboration with composer Ben Frost and cinematographer Trevor Tweeten, conceptual documentary photographer Richard Mosse has created this new exhibition of work, opening on 15 February at the Barbican Centre, using a new, powerful telephoto military camera. With this he has created narratives of the journeys made by refugees, shown in a whole new light.

barbican.org.uk



Private eye

This once-in-a-generation show at Tate Britain, opening on 9 February, will bring together six decades of David Hockney's work for the first time. Major loans from private collections – including works never displayed in public before – will be united with iconic paintings from museums around the world. The retrospective will include vibrant new paintings of the artist's home in Los Angeles, which will be united for the first time with earlier works depicting the same subject across 35 years.

tate.org.uk

LEA NIELSON / NATIONAL THEATRE GRAPHIC DESIGN STUDIO

FREE REIGN

Ivo van Hove, one of the world's most exciting directors, is making his National Theatre debut with a modern production of Ibsen's masterpiece, *Hedda Gabler*. In a new verison by Patrick Marber, the production stars Ruth Wilson in the title role, alongside a cast that also includes Rafe Spall and Sinéad Matthews. Just married, bored already: Hedda longs to be free... The production runs until 21 March.

nationaltheatre.org.uk

SPECIES IN ACTION

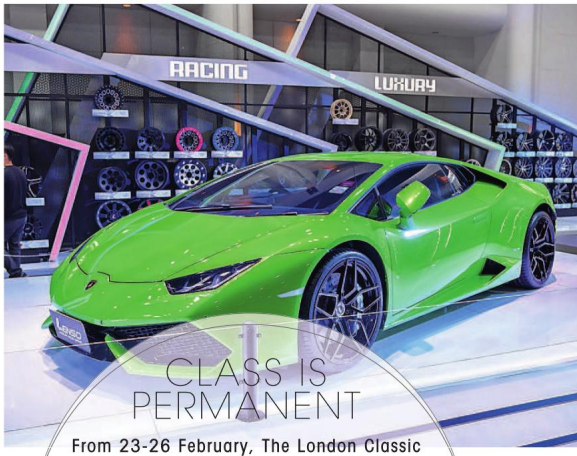
Rolling into its third month at the Wellcome Collection, the fascinating *Making Nature: How We See Animals* exhibition closing on 21 May is not one to be missed. Sparking a year long exploration into nature and all its quirks, this installation is one of the first in a series of many. Featuring more than 100 objects and artefacts from literature, film, photography and taxidermy, this multi sensory experience will walk you through the intricate ins and outs of animal life, forcing you to consider how we impact their way of living.

183 Euston Road NW1 2BE; 020 7611 2222; wellcomecollection.org

TROOPING OF THE COLOUR

West London's Griffin Gallery is currently hosting I Lost My Heart to a Starship Trooper. Open until 24 February this is a chance to see works that include both traditional materials and the use of new technologies in a wide variety of media.

griffingallery.co.uk



CLASS IS PERMANENT

From 23-26 February, The London Classic Car Show heads to ExCel London, where visitors will be able to relive the golden years of car motoring. Discover the world's best classic car manufacturers, clubs, collectors and dealers, browse memorabilia, as well as displays of the most prestigious vintage cars. There is also a special celebration of 70 years of Ferrari race cars.

thelondonclassiccarshow.co.uk

17 88

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ROSIE MILLARD

Why Islington upstages the West End any day of the week

Hamilton may be great, but it is one hell of a pricey show. And if you want to extend it into a family trip, we are talking many hundreds of pounds. It's not just Broadway transfers that are chokingly expensive these days. Many West End shows are currently asking around £80 for a decent seat. Which is bearable if you are guaranteed a wondrous experience (*The Book Of Mormon, School of Rock*), but not so good if the show turns out to be a turkey (*Leonardo, A Musical Of Love, Quasimodo*). Furthermore, there are no guarantees that you won't shell out only to sit beside a person with a) a compulsive texting habit or b) a pantechnicon of cheese and onion crisps.

So what's to be done if you love showbiz, but can't quite cope with the eye watering prices of the West End? The Angel Resident has the answer: local theatre. More precisely, local theatre above a pub, as researched by your columnist and sometime theatre critic. Pub theatres are my favourite thing as they are cheap, local and can deliver amazing quality.

Over the recent hols I took the Junior Millards to *Anything Goes*, which was playing Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate. Now, Cole Porter's masterpiece is not an easy thing to deliver. It has a score that everyone knows. It requires a live band. It requires industrial quantities of tap dancing. It requires charm and timing and the ability to spoof not only the Mafia but also posh English gentlemen, as well as the ability to deliver lines such as 'You're the steppes of Russia, You're the pants on a Roxy usher,' in tune and with conviction. Well, Upstairs at the Gatehouse did all this and more. In this tiny theatre we were transported to a 1930s cruise liner with panache and brilliance. Indeed, from the first strains of the overture I was never in any doubt that we were in for a fabulous evening that gave me the chance to share one of the most showstopping pieces of Western culture with my children. It was the same with *Guys and Dolls* a few years back; indeed, if you like your classic American musicals, put Upstairs at the Gatehouse on your speed dial.

Islington's King's Head is famous for its captivating theatre

The sneaky thing is that pub theatre will allow you and your loved ones to experience a large chunk of the theatre and opera canon at a fraction of the price charged by productions in central London. Indeed, the West End hit *The Play That Goes Wrong* actually started in an Islington pub (The Old Red Lion, to be precise).

I've taken my kids to a huge variety of opera and musical theatre via this crafty scheme, most of it courtesy of the peerless King's Head on Upper Street. In this tiny auditorium we have worked our way through swathes of Mozart and Rossini operas by way of Irvine Welsh (*Trainspotting*) and, er, Disney. Frankly, in terms of Christmas shows, *Pinocchio* at the King's Head knocked the spots off pricier pantos. Charles Court Opera, which produced it, may not have even a tenth of the production muscle of the Royal Opera House, but in terms of skill and theatrical brilliance, this was up there with Covent Garden. Hilariously funny, boundlessly inventive and quite simply madcap, *Pinocchio* made my four children, aged from 12 to 19, weep with laughter. The company is putting on *The Magic Flute* this May in Upper Street. I'm definitely going along, why don't you?

ROSIE LOVES

I've given my furniture an overhaul at Classic Upholstery, 362 Caledonian Road. Delicious choice of fabric, very good value, excellent finish.

The Angel resident

RECOMMENDS

Reawaken your senses this Valentine's Day

1 SEE

Put on your most sophisticated ensemble and head down to King's Cross' Everyman Cinema on the 10 February, sultry mask in hand. A pre Valentine's Day evening of sorts, Everyman On The Corner will hold a mystical masquerade showing of the much anticipated *Fifty Shades Darker* film, the second installation in the *Fifty Shades of Grey* trilogy, complete with a special menu, champagne galore and entertainment all night.

Handyside Street N1C 4UR; 087 1906 9060; everymancinema.com

2 FEEL

Valentine's Day wouldn't be Valentine's Day without a routine couples massage. Let the stresses of the work week evaporate underneath the hands of a skilled masseuse together. Head no further than Essex Road's The Angel Therapy Rooms where you can both indulge in a two hour pure organic therapy massage by candlelight, along with post treatment chocolate covered strawberry nibbles

16b Essex Road N1 8LN; 020 7226 1188; angeltherapyrooms.com

3 LISTEN

The Little Orchestra has been making a splash on the London scene for a while now. They'll be putting on a spectacular lounge style Valentine's show at Hackney Town Hall on 10 February where they'll play Max Richter's beautiful *Vivaldi Recomposed* accompanied by *Spring* from Vivaldi's original *Four Seasons*. Leave the serenading to the professionals...

Mare Street E8 1EA; thelittleorchestra.com

4 SMELL

Perfuming Valentine's Day with the scent of spice and roses since 1870, where better to pick out the perfect scent for your partner than Islington's very own Penhaligon's? With a selection so vast, you'll barely be able to make up your mind, everyone's perfect scent is hidden away somewhere in the Penhaligon's collection. Their Malabah set is the perfect evening fragrance, inspired by the East Indian Spice route, while The Coveted Duchess Rose scent is daring in every way.

112 Islington High Street N1 8EG; 020 7359 6547; penhaligons.com

5 TASTE

It's time to order in the oysters and load up on the aphrodisiacs at the acclaimed Wright Brothers Oyster Bar inside Old Spitalfields Market. With an eclectic selection of the finest oysters, including those from the Channel Islands and Oléron Island in France, plus tantalising Oscietra caviar, one of the most prized types of caviar around, you'll both be in for a real treat.

8a Lamb Street E1 6EA; 020 7324 7730; thewrightbrothers.co.uk

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NATUZZI
ITALIA

Michelle Dockery stars as a complex and charming southern American criminal in *Good Behaviour*

Misfit AMERICANA

Acclaimed north London actor Michelle Dockery on making the transition between Downton Abbey's Lady Mary and Good Behaviour's gun-toting Letty Dobesh

Interview LUCY ALLEN | *Words* RACHEL MANTOCK

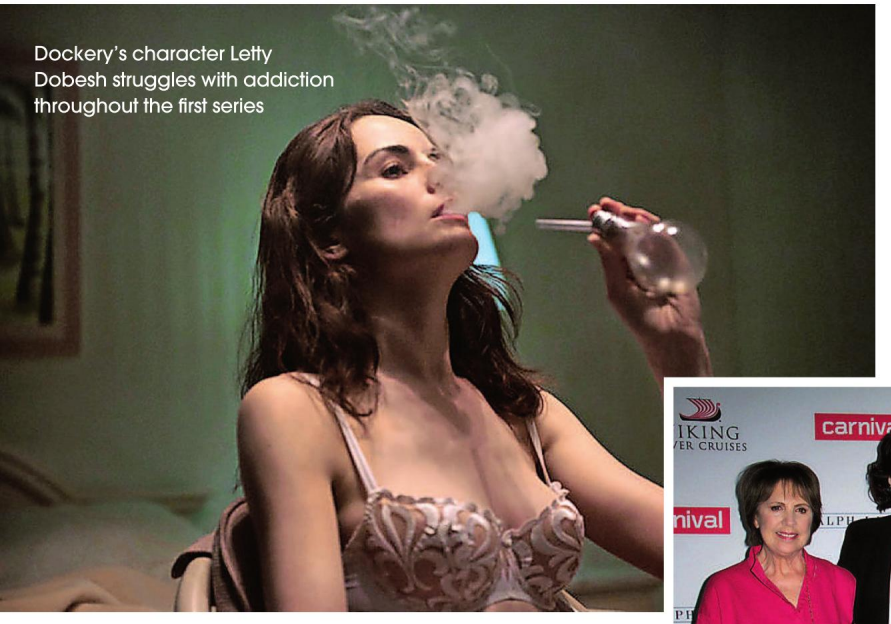
A character that will forever be in the hearts of *Downton Abbey* fans, Lady Mary was always going to be a hard one to top, so Michelle Dockery wisely didn't even try. Instead, she took on a role so vastly different from the character of Lady Mary that viewers fell in love with her on screen all over again, for all the opposite reasons. An ex convict and con artist who struggles with addiction, *Good Behaviour's* Letty Dobesh is a far cry from anything even remotely similar to Lady Mary. The trailer sees Letty and friends rapping along to Run The Jewels' cheeky and sexually explicit *Love Again*, and she picks up her love interest with the clever words, 'I can't promise to be witty and engaging, but I will get the next round'. Despite Lady Mary and Letty's differences however, Dockery still feels there are parallels to be drawn between them both.

'They are two very different characters, so it was very freeing to play someone new,' she explains. 'There are similarities between these two women, despite their striking differences. Letty is a very colourful and complex character, much like Lady Mary was. I'll always have a place in my heart for that character. I think that you kind of take your characters with you as you go along in your career, she is someone I loved playing. Letty on the other hand is an extraordinary character, so raw and fascinating to play. I loved every minute of filming the first series in North Carolina.'

With the Emmy winning *Downton Abbey* being set in the 20s and Turner Network Television's *Good Behaviour* being set in the modern day, the two dramas are not just characters apart but worlds apart. Letty Dobesh's back story is a compelling one; she's someone whose life is always one wrong turn, one bad decision away from implosion, which is actually just how she likes it. She's intent on regaining custody of her biracial son Jacob, who is currently under the protection of her mother. With a restraining order in place, she starts out with no contact at all, which simultaneously fuels her addiction struggle and gives her the courage to try and nip it in the bud.

In the first series she's fresh out of prison and just trying to stay afloat, though it's not long before she becomes caught up in a complicated web of love, sex and crime. While robbing a hotel, she overhears someone hiring a hit man and sets out to derail the job which sends her on a wild collision course with the charming killer, entangling them in a dangerous and seductive relationship. The TV drama is based on the novella series by Blake Crouch.

To begin with, Letty is not a likeable character, something that the north London actor relishes. She says: 'Those types of characters are the best to play. They don't need to be likeable for you to like them in that sense. Some of the best characters are those that don't always behave well. The relationship between Letty and Javier [played by Juan Diego ›



Dockery's character Letty Dobesh struggles with addiction throughout the first series

Letty soon becomes caught up in a murder plot

Dockery (middle) with her fellow *Downton Abbey* cast members

Botto] is so interesting, it's a messed up, very unconventional love story. They both recognise so much in one another. In some ways it's like a meeting of minds.'

Of getting into the complex role, she adds: 'The way I see it, Letty finds it hard to exist as normal people do. She gets bored very easily, so dressing up and becoming another person as part of a scam she's running is actually an addiction for her. It's the high of following other people and pretending to be someone else to escape the pain of who she really is. That is the fun of this all, playing characters within a character, along with all these different accents. I have four different wigs, and they all have different names!'

It's the high of pretending to be someone else to escape the pain of who she really is

Dockery thinks her southern accent is pretty good, stating that it's much easier for a British actor to pull off than the standard American accent. While researching the crime side of things, she came across Netflix documentary *The Life and Crimes of Doris Payne*, to do with 'a thief who is 86 years old and still at it, it was fascinating'.

After taking a look at the *Good Behaviour* script, the star says it was like nothing she had ever read before and that 'as much as it's dark, it can also be light and extremely funny'.

A one woman machine that can't be slowed down, Dockery is usually filming multiple projects at once. She worked alongside Jim Broadbent and Charlotte Rampling in *The Sense of an Ending*, a film based on the novel by Julian Barnes, set to be released next month. The extraordinary actor has also secured the lead role in the much anticipated Netflix series *Godless,* which is set for global release this year too.

With rumours of *Downton Abbey* making the leap to the big screen quickly gaining momentum, Dockery says she's very open to stepping back into Lady Mary's shoes for a film. She explains: 'I miss the cast, my friends. We're all off doing different things all over the world.'

Dockery is a frequent global jet setter now, which is part of what she loves about her career, explaining that she 'ends up in places and with people I would never expect to meet, and that's what is so lovely about the journey as an actor'.

After tragically losing her husband John Dineen to a rare cancer last year, her resilience and work ethic has astounded us all, and just like Letty, she's sensational, but for all the right reasons.

Dockery may be taking on the role of Lady Mary once again for the *Downton* film

Good Behaviour **Season 1 is available on Amazon Video now**

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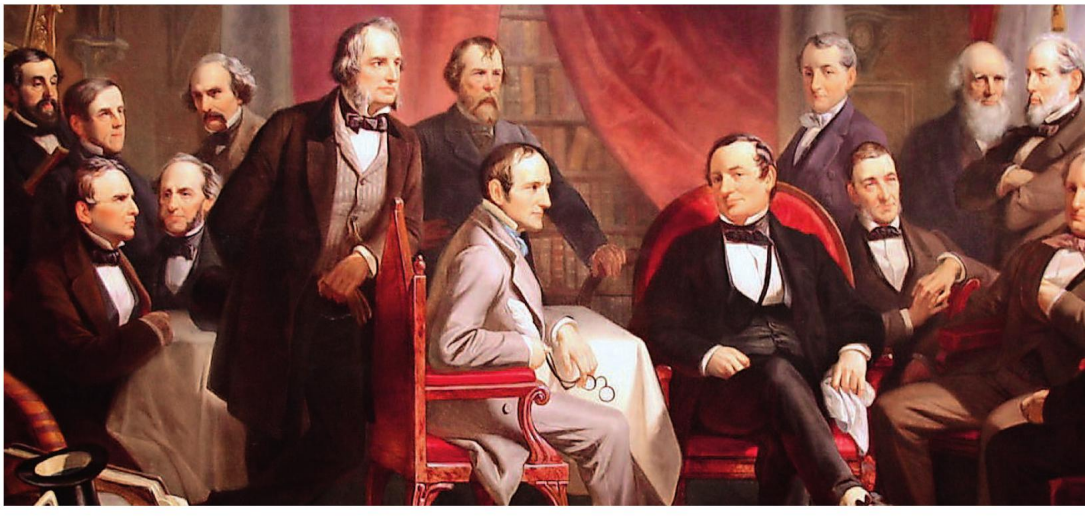
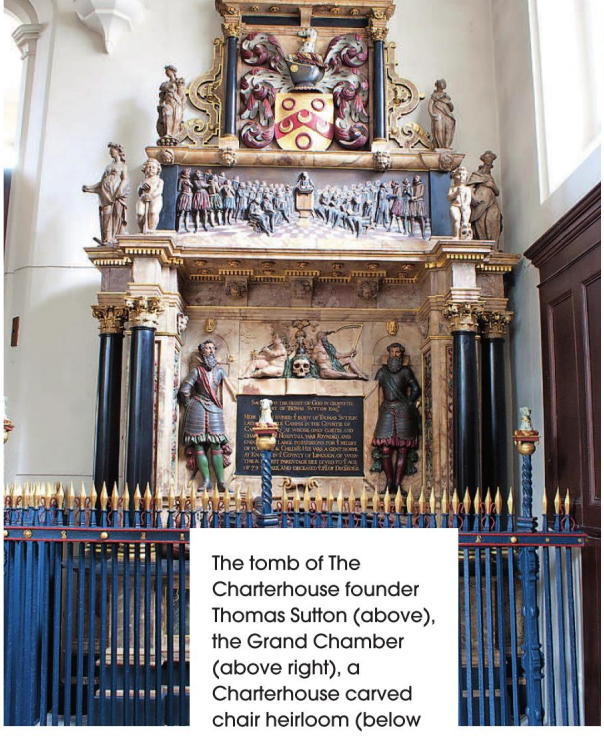


THROUGH THE AGES

With the historic Charterhouse Square undergoing a mass regeneration, Development Manager at The Charterhouse Dominic Tickell takes us through the building's past, present and future

Words RACHEL MANTOCK



The tomb of The Charterhouse founder Thomas Sutton (above), the Grand Chamber (above right), a Charterhouse carved chair heirloom (below left) and the residential brothers of the 1920s (below right)

Boasting a history that spans centuries, its four walls having seen some of the most prolific events in Britain's past, The Charterhouse has stood the test of time and is now stepping into the 21st century by giving back to the community around it in a big way. It started life as a Black Death burial ground, complete with a chapel on site for those who wished to mourn and pray for the dead. The grounds eventually gave way to Europe's largest Carthusian monastery in 1371 which thrived. Development Manager at The Charterhouse, Dominic Tickell explains: 'Once King Henry VIII's break away from Rome was well underway, the Carthusians of The Charterhouse were among the protomartyrs of the English Reformation.'

And while they held a strong resistance at first, the Disillusionment of the Monasteries, whereby the King abolished Catholic places of worship in the revolutionary English Reformation, eventually saw the end of the monastery. Soon, The Charterhouse was redeveloped as one of the grandest Tudor mansions in all of London. Tickell says: 'Both Elizabeth I and her successor James VI stayed at The Charterhouse before their coronations and were regular visitors throughout their reigns.'

Eventually, the magnificent Charterhouse was sold to Thomas Sutton and he used it to house 'a community of impoverished elderly men who had "served their country well" and a boarding school for poor scholars'. The school eventually moved to a location outside of London in 1872, but the community of elderly men still exists at the same spot along Charterhouse Square, and it's recently brought its policy into the modern day by opening its doors to women residents.

Both Elizabeth I and her successor James VI stayed at The Charterhouse before their coronations

It was actually Crossrail's Lead Archaeologist Jay Carver that discovered the huge part The Charterhouse site played in the burial of Black Death victims by accident when work began around Farringdon Station. He says: 'Analysis of the Crossrail find has revealed an extraordinary amount of information allowing us to solve a 660 year mystery. Historical sources told us that thousands of burials of Black Death victims were made in the 14th Century in the area that is now modern day Farringdon, but until Crossrail's discovery, archaeologists had been unable to confirm the story.

'Ancient DNA work is complex and still in development but the results do confirm the presence of the deadly plague bacterium preserved in the teeth.'

As part of the regeneration of ›

Crossrail and Helical are both contributing to the reworking of the historic Charterhouse Square location

Charterhouse Square, which will also see a 42,000 sq ft office block redesign by developers Helical, set for completion in the first quarter of 2017, The Charterhouse also underwent a modernisation. Tickell explains: 'There is now a new way to enter The Charterhouse and access to the new museum through the Chapel garden where the founder Thomas Sutton is buried. In order to protect the privacy of Charterhouse residents, the museum is located on the eastern side of the site, by the Chapel. It will deliver a chronological history of London, the nation and The Charterhouse's influence on both of these, in partnership with the Museum of London.

'We have also created a new learning space for school visits and have expanded our garden square which will be open to the public. Our new café, Thackeray's at The Charterhouse, will open during the second half of February.'

Every year, The Charterhouse hold a summer fete as a way of engaging with those nearby, which even has its own steering committee made up of Charterhouse staff and members of the local community. The team at The Charterhouse were also responsible for coordinating the local response to the Crossrail's planning application, hosting many public meetings on the matter.

We remain faithful to our founder's vision and are committed to safeguarding its legacy

Charmingly, The Charterhouse's charitable legacy is unwavering, still embodying an ethos of compassion that exists to ensure that founder Thomas Sutton's wishes to educate young people and care for the elderly are always 'sustained and cherished'. Tickell says: 'All members of The Charterhouse community help one another to feel secure, valued and appreciated. We remain faithful to our founder's vision and are committed to safeguarding its legacy for the next 400 years, adapting to the world's changes but always preserving and enhancing the history and heritage of The Charterhouse estate.'

Looking to the future, The Charterhouse Square gardens will open in July, when their annual summer fete will also take place. Eventually holding summer exhibitions in their fascinating Great Chamber is also in the pipeline, though this is several years off. It's astonishing that The Charterhouse estate has managed to offer care to young and elderly people in need for so long, though Tickell feels the key to achieving this type of longevity is simple, as 'Thomas Sutton's moral compass and generous heart guide us at all times'.

Charterhouse Square EC1M 6AN; 020 7253 9503; thecharterhouse.org

HELICAL.CO.UK, CROSSRAIL.CO.UK, THECHARTERHOUSE.ORG

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Mud cloth has this wonderful thick texture, like a soft woven version of jute almost

Rainbow THERAPY

CBT therapist and founder of Bespoke Binny Natalie Manima on her creative journey and her collaboration with the British Library

Words RACHEL MANTOCK

Combining her profession as a therapist and her love for bright, bold homeware, north London resident and founder of Bespoke Binny, Natalie Manima, is now throwing earthy mud cloth into the mix, a perfect fusion of tantalising texture and warming tones for the cold winter months. Mud cloth originates from Mali, Africa and is traditionally known as 'bògòlanfini' or 'bogolan'. The native men weave the cloth on narrow looms before the women dye it in a mixture made from mashed and boiled leaves from the n'gallama tree. Once the cloth is dry it's painted with a special mud paint sourced from the riverbed which has been fermented in a clay jar for up to a year beforehand.

For one of her more recent designs, Manima turned to mud cloth for its special properties

It's a central part of Malian culture and is exported worldwide for use in fashion and interiors due to its unique properties. Though it originated in Mali, many African countries now produce mud cloth locally, but it can be extremely hard to source the real thing from outside of the continent.

Manima explains: 'While I have always used a lot of African prints in my designs, this is the first time I've used mud cloth. It's a very thick material that's painted by hand. I have family in Ghana so was able to source the material directly from the local artisans who make it there. It has this wonderful thick texture, like a soft woven version of jute almost. It is very difficult to get hold of and is normally very expensive; I was lucky to already have a local

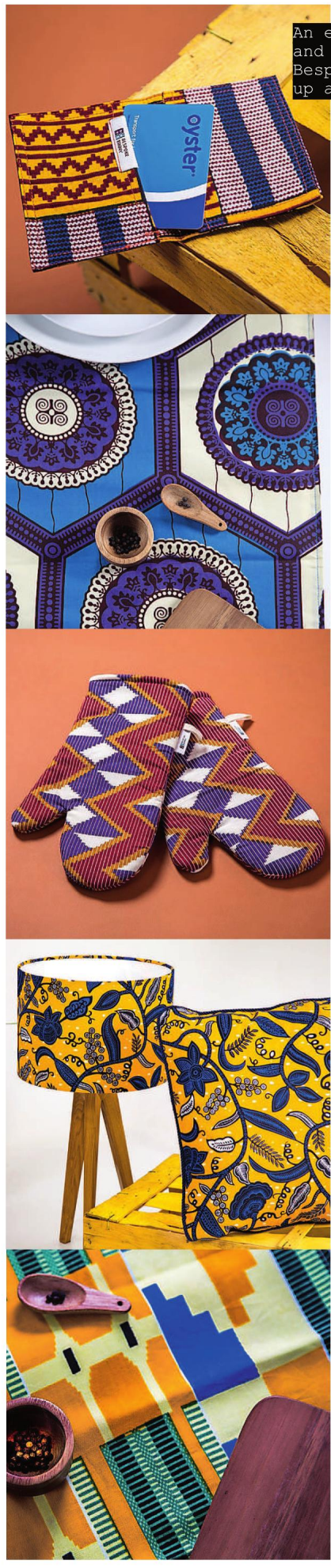
Manima's lampshade and cushion designs are her best sellers

connection in Ghana.'

It's hard to believe looking at the skilled detailing that goes into each of her designs, but Manima says that she actually fell into creating her own homeware and lifestyle brand, stating: 'By training I am a therapist, and I still do that part time alongside running Bespoke Binny. I got into making homeware as a hobby; I had no intention of turning it into anything more. I just wanted to learn how to sew so started with some evening classes and really enjoyed it.

'I then began making things for myself here and there, things for my home because that's always been more my thing rather than clothes. My friends started telling me I should sell what I was making, which I thought was a ridiculous idea at the time! After some time, I started going to a few craft fairs to sell my designs and they did surprisingly well. That's when I finally thought, maybe there is something that could come from this.'

Ironically, Manima never saw herself as a business woman, though she now



An eclectic mix of patterns and hues, homeware from Bespoke Binny will brighten up any space

runs one and enjoys every minute of it. The skilled designer explains: 'At a certain point I had to stop thinking of it as my little pet project and take it seriously as a business.'

Her new found skills didn't diminish her passion for cognitive behavioural therapy however, as she stills find her work helping others to overcome their struggles invigorating. While most of us would crack under the pressure of juggling two careers, Manima relishes it. It's almost as if one fuels the other, as vibrant colour and playful patterns are uplifting, designed to put a smile on your face.

Of this, she says: 'When choosing my fabrics I am always looking out for those that are cheerful, those that will brighten your mood and just those that will evoke a positive feeling in people.'

Despite the big move towards colour in the home, big name home brands are still dominated by neutral, minimalist tones, something that Manima hopes will

When choosing my fabrics I am always looking out for those that will evoke a positive feeling in people

change in the future. She has bright blue and orange sofas at home, which symbolically scream a big no to tired, muted tones. You may not be a Manima level colour centrist, but having one standout piece in each room is essential for steering clear of the clinical look.

The British Library soon caught on to Manima's colour fever and introduced her lamp shades and cushions to their gift store range as part of their West Africa exhibition, which ties in perfectly with Manima's own colourful heritage. You can bag one of Bespoke Binny's daring designs at craft fairs around north London and from their website. Even if you are not bold enough to go full throttle with the bright hues, Manima's mud cloth designs are a must have, perfect for those who want to keep it eco friendly, refreshingly stylish and locally bespoke at the same time.

Find out more at bespokebinny.com

SEEING MUSIC

Avocado Sweets let us in on the thinking behind their one of a kind design of this Stoke Newington apartment

Words RACHEL MANTOCK

Staying true to their love affair with colour and fun quirks, when they were given a brief by another creative couple, both Business Development Director at Avocado Sweets, Susie Agathou and her husband, Creative Director Evros Agathou were in their element. Evros explains: 'Our musical clients wanted their home to reflect their laid-back style and provide a cohesive platform for their collection of vintage pieces.'

The Avocado Sweets team felt the apartment had lots of potential from the start as it's part of an old Victorian school building. Their clients' apartment was interestingly the Headmaster's office with 'fantastic high ceilings and huge climbing windows'.

'Despite the grand living spaces, the kitchen was a windowless box room and the bedrooms were on an open mezzanine level, which let in light and noise from downstairs,' explains Evros. 'With their first baby on the way, they wanted to create a better family space that was great for entertaining and extra child friendly.'

Once both Susie and Evros put their inventive minds together and got to work, they came up with a seamless solution in no time. Susie says: 'We reconfigured the existing space to create a stunning kitchen and lounge area, as well as adding in an extra bedroom on the mezzanine level. We closed the mezzanine space with stylish shutters for privacy, peace and safety and the two staircases were changed to broaden the living space and allow extra head height for our tall clients.'

We kept the backbone of the building's history exposed

They also factored in a playful and striking entrance hall design that tied the whole apartment together with a homely feel and reduced noise transfer. Susie adds: 'To achieve the right style, we combined industrial fittings with earthy colours as our base point. We then carefully selected quirky pieces and a mix of colours to add character and individuality using custom made pieces.'

Their clients' vintage collection and colourful personalities served as muses for Susie and Evros when it came to ›

Book covers from Penguin published novels and the pages of original 40s magazines clad the walls while bright colanders cleverly serve as light shades in the kitchen

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The client's musical vintage collection has been woven throughout the design

putting together a comprehensive design for the family home. Thinking back to how they pulled all their different ideas together, Evros says: 'Our clients were playful people so we enjoyed coming up with ideas together. They wanted a stand out space that wasn't at all glitzy, and it's this fun yet pared-back approach to design they both had that led to the kitchen lights being made from brightly coloured colanders.

'We created a light in their living room from minimalist Plumen light bulbs that serves as a parody of the traditional central chandelier look. Playing with expectation is all part of the joy of the design.'

Zoning the apartment, introducing sound proofing elements and creating one big open plan entertaining space all contributed to the success of this eclectic apartment refurbishment, but according to both Evros and Susie, the seeds of this brilliant design were already there before they jumped aboard.

'The great collection of vintage music pieces that you see dotted everywhere and up the walls all belong to our clients,' explains Evros. 'We helped them to curate what they had and incorporate it into their home. This included up-cycling their 60s oak chest of drawers into the kitchen island and creating bespoke wallpaper in the entrance out of their authentic 1940s magazines. We kept the backbone of the building's history exposed such as the brickwork on the walls and the big original windows.'

Playing with expectation is all part of the joy of the design

Their innovative apartment creation wasn't just loved by the family that lived there, but all over the world too. They won in the 'intelligent design' category of the Society of British and International Design Awards a few years back for their astounding skill and unorthodox, experimental flair when it came to this enviable Stoke Newington apartment. The design duo describe winning this award as 'the icing on the cake' after their clients were jaw-droppingly impressed with their new, fun and colourful home.

Devoid of countless chains and known for its abundance of independent shops, their apartment invention sits within the perfect landscape when it comes to Stoke Newington. Their commitment to originality with this family home is something that rings true throughout the whole Stoke Newington area, marrying the apartment and its local world together perfectly, like two peas in a pod.

We already know we have to watch this space intently when it comes to Avocado Sweets, as their creative drive knows no bounds. Looking ahead to what we can expect from them in the next year, Susie says: 'We kicked off 2017 with the design for ICCO Pizza's first sister restaurant in Camden Town and we have a range of exciting residential and commercial projects in Islington and beyond coming up.'

And that we don't doubt, because Avocado Sweets don't think outside the box. For them, there never was one to begin with.

Find out more at avocadosweets.com

THE RIGHT STRIPES
In an awkward or small space why not go to town and paper the ceiling as well as the walls? It makes for a really striking look.
Carousel stripe wallpaper from the Mariinksy collection, £75 per 10m roll, cole-and-son.com

GEOMETRY LESSONS
Create a modern mural effect by colour blocking geometric shapes in complementary paint shades such as these muted pastels.
Clockwise (from pink): Orchard Pink, Yes Your Honour, Skylon Grey and Graphite, all £39.50 per 2.5 litres matt emulsion, firedearth.com

COLOUR

Story
KARA O'REILLY

COOL CLOAKROOM
The smallest room in the house is a place where you can go to town with playful ideas as designer Niloufar Bakhtiar-Bakhtiari shows here. Contrasting shots of neon in the form of painted plaster frames introduce a light-hearted punch of colour.
Commissions upon request, nbbdesign.com

FRAMER'S ART
Draw attention to any architectural details in a space – think cornices, architraves, door frames and skirting – by picking them out in a dark colour. This also has the effect of 'framing' the room.
Architectural details in Jack Black; walls in French Gray pale and door in Cape Red, £38 per 2.5 litres Absolute Matt Emulsion; £54.50 per 2.5 litres Intelligent Eggshell, all littlegreene.com

OF CHOICE

Thinking of embarking on an interiors revamp? Then check out these eye-catching ways to create bold decorative effects

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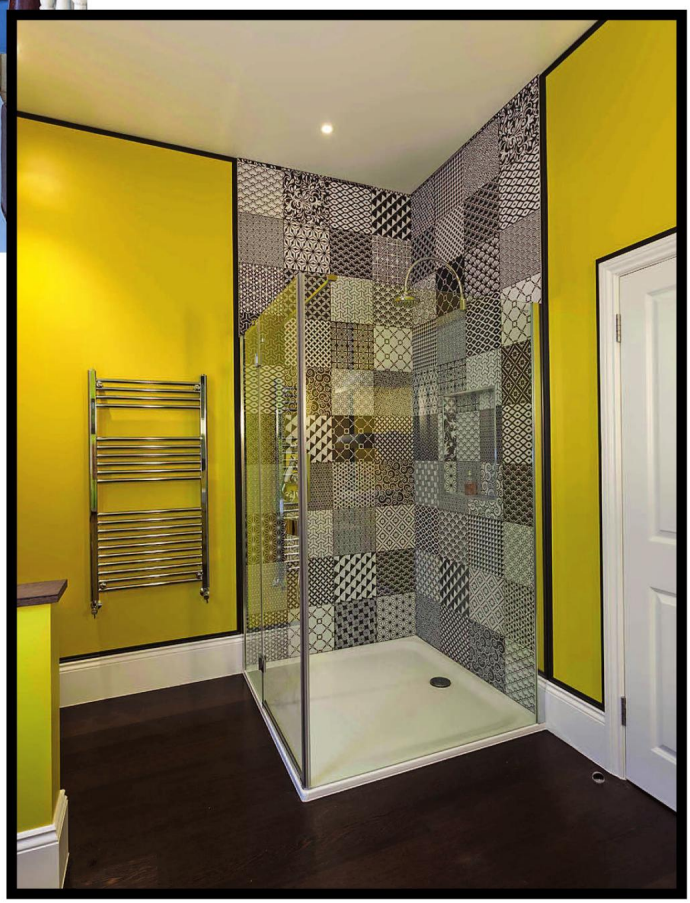

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

Forget carpet; instead get creative by using paint effects up a staircase. This bold design features a Dove Tale floor with stripes added in contrasting colours of Babouche, Mahogany and Arsenic.

Floor paint, £59 per 2.5 litres, farrow-ball.com

GREEN HOUSE

Green is one of the on-trend colours for 2017, but give it a chic retro edge by pairing with ochres and tans.

Creeping Ivy and Dropped Pollen, £36 per 2 litres matt emulsion, both paintbyconran.com

ON THE TILES

Mis-matching patterned tiles in a similar colour palette is de riguer at the moment. Designer Mhairi Coyle used them in this bathroom as a way of defining the shower area and paired them with a punchy primary paint for greater impact.

Large Picasso monochrome patchwork tiles, £94 per sq m, alhambrahome.co.uk

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GO LARGE

Be brave and choose a single print, such as this over-sized botanical design, to make a real statement on a wall.
Peony Gray wallpaper from the Flora Sandbergica collection, £144 per roll (covers 135 x 270cm), sandbergwallpaper.com

SCALE IT UP

Many of the latest wallpaper designs feature bold patterns in large-scale repeats, meaning you don't need more than a few rolls to really ring the changes in a room as this Nina Campbell design shows.
Palmetto wallpaper from the Coromandel collection by Nina Campbell, £72 per 10m roll, osborneandlittle.com

HIDDEN DEPTHS

Interior designer Amelia Carter used a patterned wallpaper to add an unexpected shot of colour when this hidden tambour cupboard was opened for use.
Commissions upon request, ameliacarter.com

1

2

'A design classic embodies a sense of elegance and function that blends perfectly with other trends but can also stand alone as a prominent feature within the home.'
BRYONY SHERIDAN, HOME BUYER, LIBERTY

3

DESIGNS OF THEIR TIMES

Buying a piece of new furniture? Then invest in a design classic that has truly stood the test of time

Story
KARA O'REILLY

4

5

6

'A design classic should endure and whilst it should maintain a timeless quality, it should also have personality and character. It should be functional and fulfil its purpose.'
SIMON ALDERSON, FOUNDER 20:21

7

8

9

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11

'For me, a design classic is a beautiful, timeless piece which must be accessible in order to capture the attention of generations.'
SABINA MILLER, HEAD OF BUYING, HEAL'S

12

13

1 Tom Dixon mirror ball, from **£285, tomdixon.net**
2 Rimini Blu lion figure by Bitossi, **£39, libertylondon.com**
3 Sunburst clock by George Nelson, **£239, vitra.com**
4 Arco light by Achille Castiglioni, **£1,670, flos.com**
5 Alvar Aalto Collection vase, from **£49, iittala.com**
6 Reclining chair by Robin Day, from **£1,512, twentytwentyone.com**
7 Anglepoise® Original 1227 Desk Lamp by George Carwardine, **£185, anglepoise.com**
8 9091 Kettle by Richard Sapper, **£180, alessi.com**
9 Themes & Variations plate (No 122) by Fornasetti, **£200 from a selection, amara.com**
10 DCW chair by Charles and Ray Eames, **£340, heals.com**
11 Swirl hand-knotted wool rug by Paul Smith, **£985 per sq m, therugcompany.com**
12 PH3½-3 pendant by Poul Henningsen for Louis Poulsen, **£625, skandium.com**
13 Stelton EM77 1 litre vacuum jug in Dusty Blue by Erik Magnussen, **£59.95, ariashop.co.uk**

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ARCHANT

Well crafted
If you are interested in contemporary craft – and, if not, why not? – then Collect is the fair to visit. Not only will you get an insight into the current craft scene worldwide (there are nearly 40 specialist galleries representing disciplines as varied as ceramics, bookbinding and silversmithing), but will be seriously tempted to invest in a piece or two. Add to that the fact that it is returning to the airy, light-filled surroundings of the Saatchi Gallery and taking up all three floors, means it is even bigger and better than before.
2-6 February, Saatchi Gallery, Duke of York's HQ, King's Road SW3 4RY; collect17.org.uk

SITTING COMFORTABLY?

I have a bit of a bias towards this chair as I am a bibliophile, but when I met its maker, James Baldwin, I was engaged by his enthusiasm. His Bookthrone came about when he was working with young offenders on finding jobs post-detention. British made, it stores 300 books. From £1,097 to order; baldwinjames.co.uk

HOMES *NOTEBOOK*

Kara O'Reilly rounds up the latest in interiors

Ooh la la

Not just a comprehensive source for beds, Feather & Black has become a go-to for furniture for all the family. It has recently launched a new twist on one of its best-selling ranges, the French-inspired Sienna collection. Now available in weathered grey oak, the new finish gives the timeless hard-carved frames an on-trend update that perfectly complements the luxe feel of the range.
See more at featherandblack.com

Mini Trend
Green Velvet Upholstery

Scott armchair in grass velvet, £599, made.com

Emerald velvet ottoman, £395, oliverbonas.com

Lady May three-seater sofa in Dusky Grass, from £1,989, sofaworkshop.com

From BEIJING *with* LOVE

The fashion designers turned gourmet geniuses behind Chinese Laundry on what sparked it all, retro brunch and the Year of the Rooster

Words RACHEL MANTOCK

Painted in a mossy, greenish deep teal with a soft pink sign splatted against it, Chinese Laundry sits all so chic and ever so striking within the Upper Street landscape. It's tastefully on trend yet a throwback to the past at the same time, more specifically an ode to 80s China. It's easy to draw parallels between the interior and exterior of their cosy Upper Street spot and fashion brand from across the way in Korea, Ader Error, both pioneering bold pinks against canvases of evergreens. The fashion forwardness of Chinese Laundry can be attributed to the design backgrounds of its founders, Tongtong Ren and Peiran Gong. They grew up in northern China and studied in Beijing before moving to London together to study at the Royal College of Art.

Of their journey from fashion to food, Gong says: 'We've both always been enthusiastic about cooking. When we were

The founders of Chinese Laundry (below) drew décor inspiration from 80s China

still working as designers, we'd often head to the market to get fresh fish and ingredients and cook up these big feasts in the studio or at home for all our friends. We just loved eating.'

Their food offering is like no other in the local area, focussed on authentic cuisine from north China with little touches of Western influence here and there. They have also jumped onto the brunch bandwagon but have zoned in on a traditional Chinese breakfast when it comes to their take on the inbetween meal time. Gong says: 'Chinese brunch is actually really hard to find anywhere else in London. Ours includes classics like congee and baozi, as well as a Chinese version of the full English, and an omelette dotted with dumplings, which is loved by all our guests.'

Both Ren and Gong describe their menu as mostly traditional with modern undertones. Their chicken carcass drink and egg hug dumpling were common street food snacks in Ren's hometown but have nearly disappeared off menus now. Gong reminisces and says: 'I remember eating them at festive family dinners in the early 90s.'

Their love of 80s China sits at the core of Chinese Laundry, combined with their unbreakable love affair slash obsession with food, so much so that they quit fashion to pursue careers in the culinary world instead.

'We were just babies during the 80s, but it was a time of Cultural Revolution, a time when our parents began to embrace culture, music and the arts,' explains Ren. 'The interior of Chinese Laundry is an eclectic mix of objects that we've collected over the years. We tried to pull it all together to look like our grandparent's homes.

'Working in the fashion industry got to a point where it wasn't satisfying anymore. We love seeing diners respond to and appreciate our work with food, it's actually very creatively fulfilling.'

107 Upper Street N1 1QN; 020 7686 6847; chineselaundryroom.com

COCKADOODLE

In the week leading up to The Chinese New Year, Chinese Laundry will be hosting three nights of dumpling masterclasses. They're a key part of Chinese New Year cuisine, and are often eaten in rounds from morning all the way through to midnight on the big day. They'll be throwing in lots of different types of dumplings and a cocktail or two, as well as a variety of other dishes off their menu to make a night of it. In China celebrations can last for up to two weeks after the official start of the lunar New Year, so even if you can't make one of their masterclasses, head down in true celebratory style when you have time and welcome in the Year of the Rooster in a retro Chinese setting.

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New organic opening, Juniper Tree, boasts the best of local produce, paired with indulgent desserts that almost reward you for your 100 per cent organic and seriously healthy mains. Putting the hearty into healthy, this food plays on classic British favourites while welcoming in vegans and the fitness pack alike. A flawless mushroom risotto with parmesan crisps? Entirely vegan of course, sounds glorious.

Belsize Lane NW3 5BJ; 020 3019 7303; junipertree.london

FOOD *NOTEBOOK*

Spice it up with our pick of different cuisines

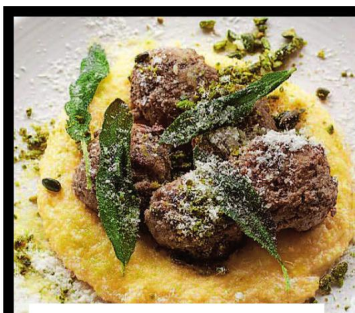
SLICE OF AUSTRIA

Gorge on kalbsgeschnetzeltes and kasespätzle at Kiperfel, a tongue twister of delectable Ks – that's pan fried veal and warming shredded raisin and apple pancakes to you.
20 Camden Passage N1 8ED; kipferl.co.uk

NOTABLY NORDIC

Meaning 'taste' in Swedish, Aldgate's SMAKA goes above and beyond the connotations of its name. Forget hygge, 2017 is all about lagom which translates to 'not too much, not to little' – something that SMAKA wholly embodies, striking an elegant balance right in the centre. Just simply enjoy great tasting food in a refined yet laid back setting and leave feeling ready to take on the week, not overstuffed and lethargic.

77 Alie Street E1 8NH; 020 3358 0317; smaka.co.uk



WHEN IN ROME

Say hello to authentic Roman dishes at Clerkenwell's Palatino. The latest instalment from the award winning Stevie Parle, the man behind Dock Kitchen, Rotorino, Craft London and Sardine, Palatino will celebrate the history of Rome's culinary journey, from the traditional to the here and now. Feast the Italian way with four courses of antipasti, primi, secondi and dolci.

71 Central Street EC1V 8AB; 020 3481 5300; palatino.london

KILT KULT

Hurry and catch the end of the Balls Brothers' free whisky giveaway stint. All you have to do is arrive in tartan, whether that be a measly scarf or full traditional Scottish dress, working a kilt and bagpipe in hand. It's free whisky on the rocks. Free! Need we say more? 73 Shoe Lane EC4A 3BQ; 020 7583 8602; ballsbrothers.co.uk

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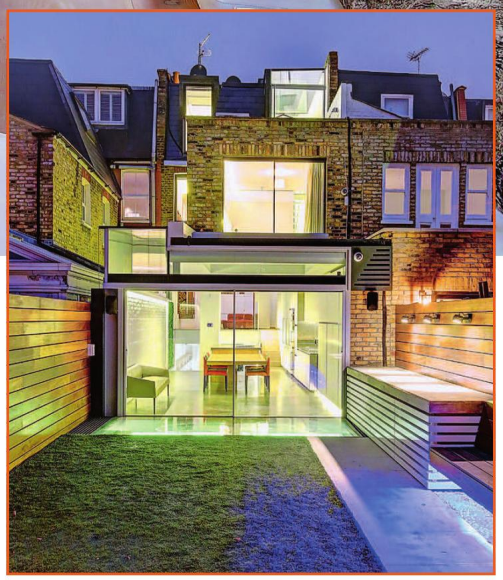

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Yoga to You

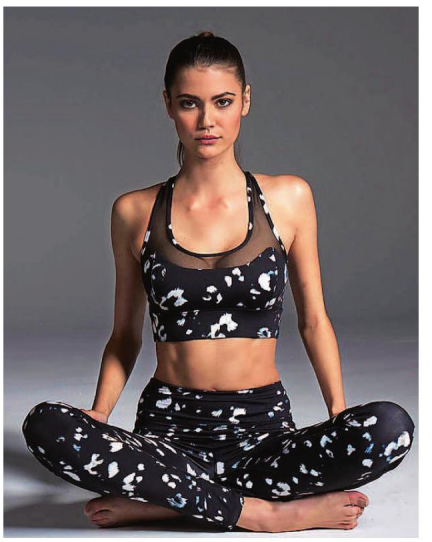
After a long, hectic day, no matter how much you may need to go to yoga class, it's all too tempting to Nama-stay at home. If only you could get London's best teachers to come to you, right? Well, now you can with the Blow LTD app, which offers relaxing one-to-one yoga and Pilates sessions alongside its signature at-home beauty services.
Find out more at blowltd.com

HEALTH & BEAUTY NOTEBOOK

Shona Wallace's latest for mind, body and soul

BEAUTY EDITOR'S PICK

Created by Californian hair stylist Jen Atkin, OUAI Haircare is all about perfecting that effortlessly chic, undone look. The packaging is oh-so stylish, but it's what's inside that counts – the lightweight Smooth conditioner is a saviour for parched winter hair, leaving it super shiny. panachecosmetics.com



The Sports Edit

Boasting a curated edit of activewear, The Sports Edit in Chelsea is our new go-to for ultra-cool kit. They've got all the big names, but it's the new, niche brands we're most excited about, particularly Varley. Already a hit among fitness influencers, Varley's signature leggings and mesh-panelled sports bras are second to none.
See more at thesportsedit.com

3 of the best VALENTINE'S CANDLES

LOVE IN BLOOM: Fornasetti Ortensia Scented Candle, £115 at harveynichols.com

LIPSTICK ON HIS COLLAR: Byredo Loose Lips, £50 at byredo.com

SWEET NOTHINGS: Lola's Apothecary Orange Patisserie Candles at £36 at Content, 14 Bulstrode Street W1

THE LASH WHISPERER

Why the two woman team behind Old Street's Moka & Sarah are generating such a buzz with their Japanese technique applied lashes

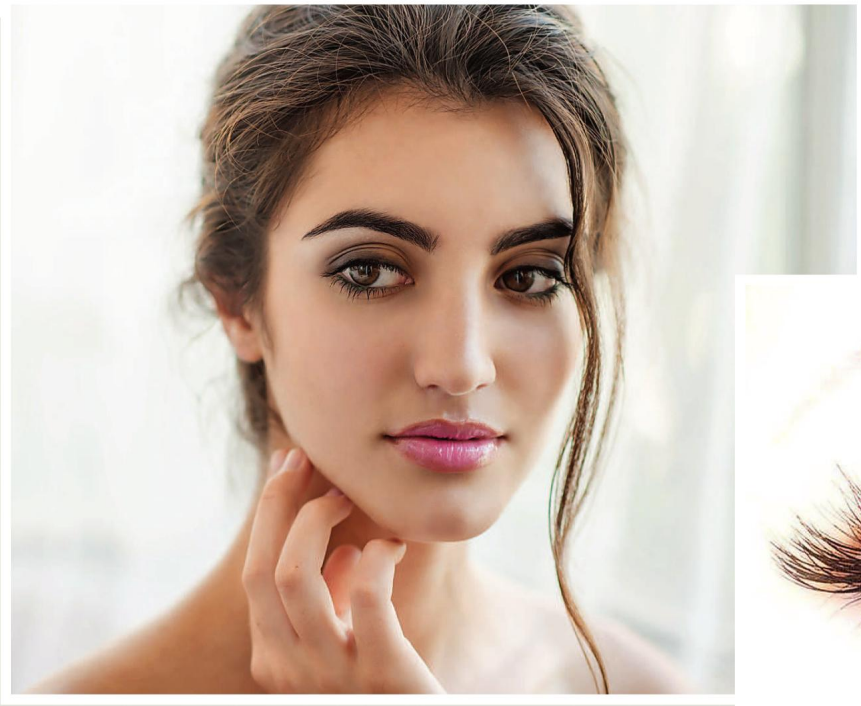
Words RACHEL MANTOCK

You'd never know it until you experience an eyelash disaster, but London is notorious for bad lash extension practice. Though the city is home to some gifted, expertly skilled lash technicians, the over saturated market has left it open to unsafe budget options that those wanting to save a few pennies or that just don't know any better flock to. This is not just a problem in the UK's capital, but in cities and towns all over the world. In Japan, having an extended set of perfectly preened individual lashes is second nature.

Just like the situation in London, the high demand for lash extensions eventually lead to sub standard technicians trying to corner the market. With demand being so high, malpractice lead to a lash health epidemic of sorts, which eventually warranted government intervention.

They regulated the lash market by introducing a compulsory three year training period for lash extension technicians which saw Japanese lash training become the apex of the lash education world, especially when compared to the UK where a mere three days of training is the industry standard. Japanese native Moka was among those who received this new vigorous lash extension training and she then travelled the world to perfect her expertise. She was intent on educating herself on the growth patterns and genetic nature of different ethnicities to hone her craft.

A self confessed lash extension addict, former radio journalist and co-founder Sarah Darnley went into business with Moka so



Moka & Sarah are committed to improving the health of your lashes while enhancing them gently

that she could give London a slice of Japanese lash expertise, something that the city didn't even know it needed yet.

'There are some wonderful lash extension technicians in the UK,' says Darnley. 'Though the level of compulsory training in Japan is not yet matched across the board in the UK.

'Applying individual lash extensions professionally takes a laser focussed amount of skill and one wrong move can land you in serious problems, it's really hard to master. Lash extensions can be very damaging, but if applied properly, they shouldn't be at all.'

Mink eyelashes have been the it-trend of the lash game for a while now, yet Darnley let me in on a little secret. 'Mink Eyelashes' started out as the brand name for a synthetic lash made in Japan and the name was soon adopted by salons worldwide, but lash extensions made from real mink hair are something else entirely. This is common knowledge in Japan but not the UK. Darnley explains: 'We don't promote our lash extensions as mink lashes because it can confuse people, and we don't use real animal mink because it's almost impossible to source ethnically.'

While the idea of real mink lashes sounds luxurious in theory, the reality of possible animal cruelty isn't so glamorous at all.

Then there is the matter of believability, the natural look is truly alive and kicking and lash extensions have a reputation for being over the top.

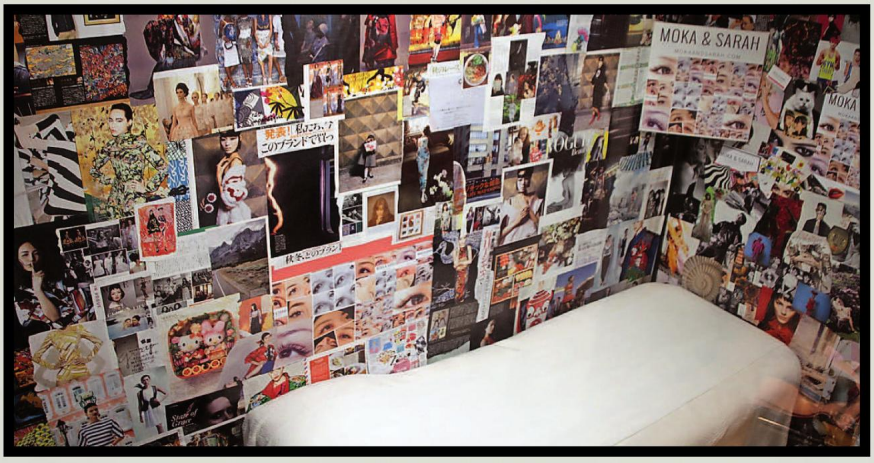
We will only give you a set of extensions that your natural lashes can handle

'Even our most voluminous lash option is extremely natural looking,' says Darnley. 'There is only a certain level of weight you can apply before it starts becoming too heavy for the lashes, leaving you at risk for premature lash loss. We take a lot of time to apply each extension set and we apply them in very thin layers to avoid this.'

Taking things a step further, she adds: 'We have made a commitment to our clients that we will improve the health of their lashes if they have previously been badly damaged. We will only give you a set of extensions that your natural lashes can handle, even if you have requested a thicker volume. If your lashes are in bad shape, our answer will always be no.'

Just scrolling through their fashionable Instagram feed gives you an instant feel for the believable look of their lash sets. It's filled with raven sets of perfectly designed pairs of angel wings on faces, understated yet elegant and striking in a mysterious way that would leave those none the wiser baffled as to why they all look so wide eyed and naturally lush lashed.

Operating inside Old Street's cool multi purpose co-working space, WeWork, Moka & Sarah's mini studio is clad with Japanese fashion editorial. Moka hopes to one day open a lash school in the UK, and their own range of hand made strip lashes is also in the pipeline. Life's too short to carefully apply mascara every morning on the train commute with your mouth wide open. Wake up everyday feeling like Audrey Hepburn with instantly feathery lashes courtesy of the lash whisperer Moka. Go on, tell everyone they're real, our lips are definitely sealed.



Find out more at mokaandsarah.com

THUNDERING SMOKE

A magical long weekend safari taking in the sights and sounds of both Zimbabwe and Botswana is now within your grasp

Words MADELEINE HOWELL

They say an elephant never forgets. Likewise, the sight of the mighty Victoria Falls – known as mosi-oa-tunya, or 'the smoke that thunders', for the mists that gather around the rapids – is not an experience I'm ever likely to forget. Neither is the sight of dazzles of zebras, ranks of impalas and the rather aptly named 'congresses' of baboons that are so abundant in the wildlife-rich parks of Zimbabwe and Botswana. Nor is the moment I finally spotted a lion enjoying the shade of a baobab tree.

Happily, thanks to the new Victoria Falls International Airport, these bucket list experiences are set to become more accessible to us Brits as we begin to take up a larger percentage of Zimbabwe's tourism industry. Even for those with only a long weekend to spare, it's doable. That said, it's a long flight, and on arriving at the luxurious Victoria Falls Safari Club, I was grateful for the opportunity to relax on the game-viewing deck, and to fill up on ostrich carpaccio and warthog steak at the MaKuwa-Kuwa restaurant – all the while able to watch the animals gather (the lodge itself conveniently overlooks a busy watering hole).

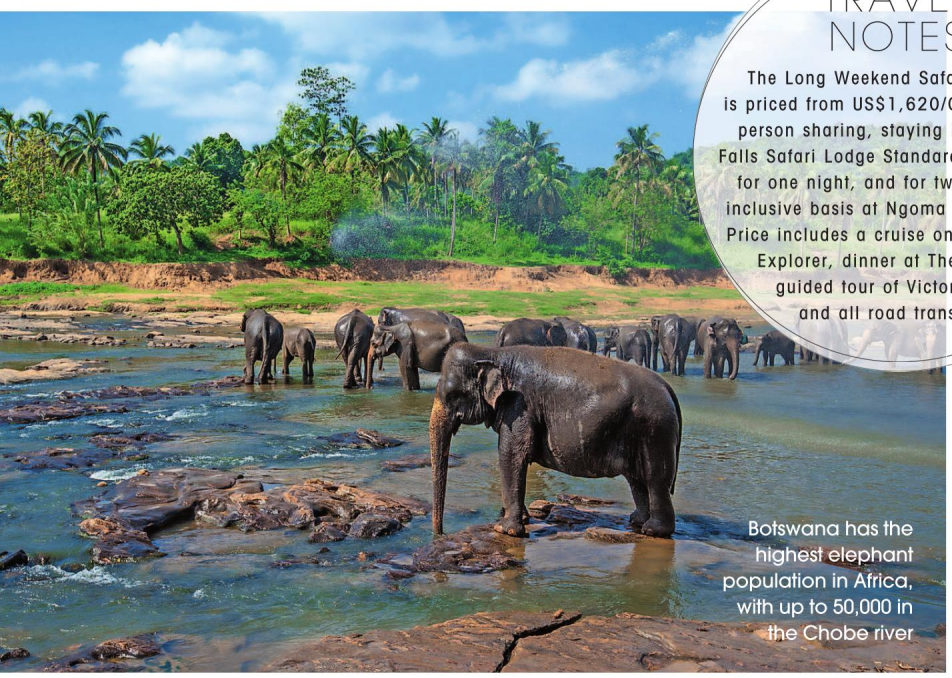
If you can't wait to get your first wildlife fix up close, lodge guide Charles can take you down to the Sidule Hide, right next to the watering hole. Cunningly disguised as a termite's nest, you can get close and personal while maintaining a safe distance from the dastardly crocodiles. At $50 dollars for two or three hours, it's the perfect arrival activity, or a final treat to squeeze into your itinerary before flying.

Next up on our list after a glorious sleep was a canopy tour with activity specialists Wild Horizons (enjoyable even if, like me, you are faint-hearted when it comes to heights and adrenalin-inducing activities) with stunning views of the Zambezi River, which straddles Zimbabwe and Botswana, followed by a leisurely guided tour of the mighty waterfalls themselves. It's best to go early, we realised, before it gets too hot. The more adventurous can have a go at white water rafting and more hardcore high wires, such as the infamous Flying Fox.

After all of that excitement, we gratefully took the time to kick back, sip cocktails and relax with the Zambezi Explorer Cruise Company, spotting a few hippos along the way. With the sun setting, spirits high and appetites worked up again, it was soon time to don a traditional African sarong (a 'chitenge') and face paint to feast on smoked crocodile tail, kudu stew and buffalo

TRAVEL NOTES

The Long Weekend Safari package is priced from US$1,620/GBP1,327 per person sharing, staying in a Victoria Falls Safari Lodge Standard Room (B&B) for one night, and for two on a fully inclusive basis at Ngoma Safari Lodge. Price includes a cruise on the Zambezi Explorer, dinner at The Boma, a guided tour of Victoria Falls and all road transfers.



Botswana has the highest elephant population in Africa, with up to 50,000 in the Chobe river

Relax as you experience authentic luxury in the midst of panoramic views, and then set out on a night drive after dinner

The mighty Victoria Falls are all the more impressive from above

Savour your morning coffee as you look out for African fish eagles

curry at La Boma – Dinner and Drum Show. Fêted as a must-do, drumming and dancing is compulsory, and there's even a fortune teller. Don't forget to try a Mopani worm – it tastes better than it sounds – and sample the traditional fermented beverage, made with local grain sorghum (regretfully not a beer that my own taste buds are developed for). Hangovers banished the next morning, it was time for another tour of the Falls – from above. A long, scenic helicopter flight with Bonisair was an idyllic finale to our stay in Victoria Falls before we headed across the border to Botswana.

The oasis of Ngoma Safari Lodge, with its individual huts and private suites, was our abode for the next leg of the trip. The incredible location overlooking the Chobe floodplain gave us the chance to get down to some serious safari. They don't call it the Land of Giants for nothing. We watched some of the largest herds of elephants on earth take a dip (later, they even sneaked up to drink from our private plunge pools), headed off on thrilling night drives, dined on the deck and woke to the African sunrise. What could be more magical – and unforgettable – than that?

See africaalbidatourism.com to find out more

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BEST PRACTICE

A new year means students all over London will be starting to prepare for forthcoming exams. Help is at hand...

Words BELLA AUDSLEY

AHEAD OF AN EXAM

Visualisation
This is a powerful psychological technique that can be used to enhance positive feelings and diminish the negative ones. This strategy is employed for many purposes, particularly with sports players and performers who are working towards a specific goal. In the context of exams, you can imagine a positive outcome where you see yourself achieving success.

Practice, practice, practice
Getting used to exam technique is an invaluable way to prepare for exams. Managing your time effectively and writing for long periods under timed conditions are skills that require training. Handwriting requires you to use muscles and, if not properly exercised, can tire easily. You want to be able to focus on answering the questions, not your hand cramping! One of the most important areas to focus on is making sure you practice your timings and when to move on to new sections of an exam.

Facing fears
It can be helpful to confront some of your concerns about the exam by making a spider diagram that identifies a solution for each fear or worry.

The power of sleep
A good night's sleep before the exam is essential, however it is also important to establish a sensible pattern and routine in the lead up to the exam. On average, children and teenagers aged between seven and 18 years of age require 9-10 hours sleep a night.

Bring the necessary materials
Having your pencil case and bag packed before going to bed avoids panic the next day and allows you more time for a calm breakfast.

DAY OF THE EXAM

Sunny side up
A healthy breakfast helps to set students up for success. Last year, an Australian survey of teachers revealed that skipping breakfast can cause students to lose two hours of learning a day due to the lack of concentration. Porridge is a hearty and nutritious option in winter. Try to include some protein in there as well: eggs are a fantastic way to start the day.

Manage your time
Keeping a watchful eye on the clock will allow you to ensure that you have enough time to answer all the questions.

Read each question as carefully as possible
Students can often miss out on marks because they have overlooked key details or misread instructions. It is a good idea to highlight or underline key words in the question.

And breathe
Mindfulness can provide students with the tools to reduce anxiety and improve concentration through simple breathing and meditation exercises.

Good luck!

Bella Audsley is part of the Enjoy Education team, specialists in bespoke exam preparation. For more visit enjoyeducation.co.uk or call 020 7352 8800

BREAK A LEG

The National Youth Theatre is holding auditions and interviews nationwide for its 2017 acting courses. Those selected will be following in the footsteps of acclaimed names such as Helen Mirren, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Daniel Craig and Matt Smith. Various locations; 020 3696 7066; nyt.org.uk.

JUNIOR YOGIS

Mindfulness techniques are rapidly growing as relaxation and concentration tools within schools and Islington's St Andrew's Montessori has embraced this wholly by offering yoga sessions before school. Their pupils are taken on a creative adventure through different yoga poses where they try to recreate different animals. Charmingly, their even getting their toys to practice yoga at home.

St. Andrew's Church, Thornhill Square N1 1BQ; 020 7700 2961;

EDUCATION *NEWS*

The news, views and big ideas for young learners

GOING FOR GOLD

The Olympic Pool opened its doors to five Islington primary school children on 21 January for their national swimming competition. They won multiple gold medals in the regional north London heats beforehand and Cy Sherliker, 10, Martha Denby, 9, Persephone Holloway, 11, Seren Millar, 8 and Sidney Gruber, 9 were all selected to swim in the Independent Schools Association National Swimming Gala at the London Aquatics Centre. Principal Miss Emma Gowers said: 'The standards of the competition were very high, we are so proud!'

18 North Road N7 9EY; 020 7700 2445; thegowerschool.co.uk

A MUSICAL AFFAIR

Dallington School has just recorded their second CD with eleven original songs written for the children by their bursar, Abi Hercules. The whole school gathered to sing and record live, accompanied by the parent and staff band. Some songs were co-written with the children as their lyrical ideas were so refreshing, powerful and wonderfully innocent. Everyone was included in this collaborative project as at Dallington School, music is an integral part of every day life. Their students are encouraged to sing, play instruments, compose and dance throughout the year. For them, the positive impact of the Arts when weaved into a curriculum cannot be underestimated.

8 Dallington Street EC1V 0BW; dallingtonschool.co.uk

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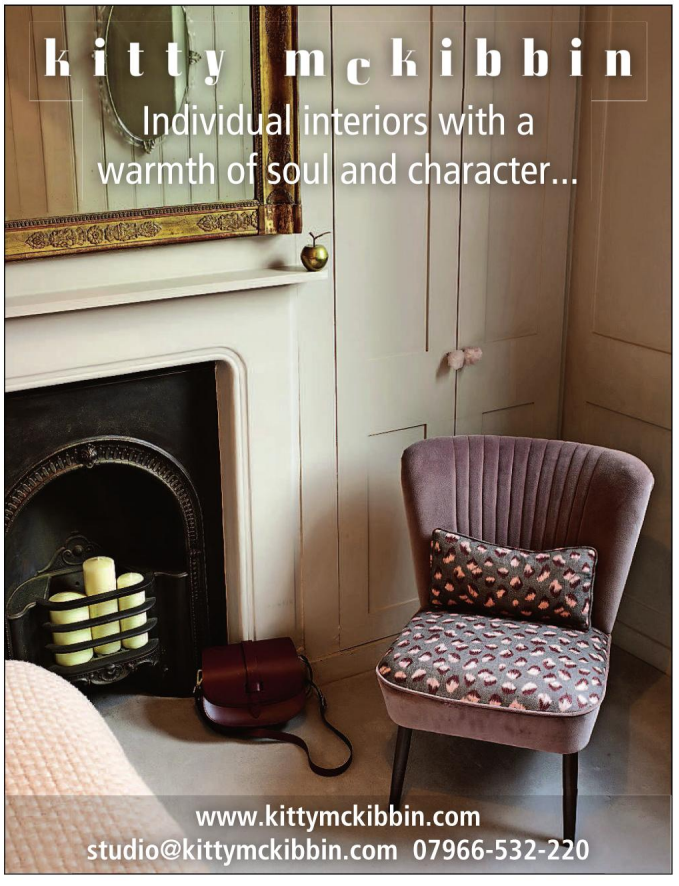

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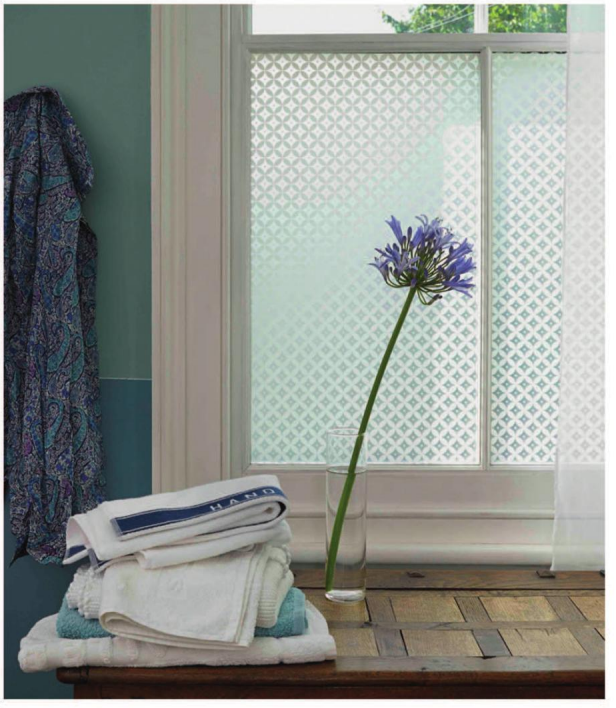

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PROPERTY

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LOCAL LANDMARK

The apartment that impresses both inside and out

This is a unique, Grade II listed two bedroom apartment set over three floors within a landmark building close to Old Street. There are two double bedrooms, two bathrooms and spacious living areas benefitting from ample natural light. Read more about this unique opportunity on page 56.

Imperial Hall, City Road, Old Street, Guide Price: £1,675,000 with Savills Shoreditch; 020 7578 6200

HIP *to be* SQUARE

Londoners are set to benefit from new public spaces across the capital

Words FIONA BRANDHORST

It seems that every corner of the capital is under construction as a host of impressive development schemes continue to launch this year creating new squares, gardens and plazas. And we can all share in their success as many include public realm initiatives from breakout gardens to commissioned artwork set to benefit not only the new residents, but also existing neighbours and those working nearby.

Developed by Berkeley Homes and designed by Foster+Partners, South Quay Plaza at the heart of Canary Wharf is set to be one of the UK's tallest residential schemes and will include a 68 storey tower and smaller 36 storey tower offering 888 properties together with cafés, shops and restaurants. The development's minimal footprint will open up over 1.6 acres of public space including a new dockside promenade and pocket park. The 56th floor residents' club lounge is complete with a bar, screening room, business lounge and an enormous terrace with outside bar and dining facilities. The first phase of one, two and three bedroom homes is expected to be completed in 2020 when price growth is forecast to reach 24%. Prices start from £675,000.

Barratt London's Aldgate Place will create 465 one, two and three-bedroom apartments and three and four-bedroom duplexes across four residential towers. Most homes have a private balcony or winter garden with views across the capital and over 50% of the development's footprint is dedicated to landscaped gardens and pedestrian streets, along with a four-star hotel, cafés, restaurants and shops.

'Aldgate Place will make the most of the vast untapped potential of the Whitechapel area,' says Gary Patrick, Regional Sales Director, Barratt London. 'We've seen considerable interest from owner occupiers, who want to live close to their work as well as the local entertainment cores of East London, and investors that are drawn to the area due to the capital growth Aldgate is expected to achieve.' Crossrail's arrival in 2018 has been tipped to support investment predictions as well as the area's ongoing regeneration. The three bedroom penthouse is priced at £2,550,000.

In ever popular Islington, over 60% of apartments have been sold at Islington Square, designed by award-winning architect Piers Gough of CZWG Architects. The combination of the restored former Edwardian post office buildings and new build studio, one, two and three bedroom homes are designed around a new central public boulevard. Apartments are for sale with Beauchamp Estates, Knight Frank and Savills, with prices starting from £715,000.

Down at Southbank Place facing the popular Jubilee Gardens, Belvedere Gardens will have stunning river views

Clockwise from bottom left: Islington Square will create a new public boulevard; the view from Belvedere Gardens; and South Quay Plaza will be one of the UK's tallest residential schemes

of the Houses of Parliament and the London Eye. Developed by Canary Wharf Group and Qatari Diar, the 97 one, two and three bedroom apartments are split over 20 levels, including one three-bedroom duplex and two penthouses. Prices start from £1,050,000.

Residents will have access to a private lounge, leading to an opulent outdoor terrace, providing an intimate space for social gatherings and business meetings, as well as space for residents to entertain and relax. The exclusive health club, designed by one of London's leading interior designers Goddard Littlefair, includes a gym, sauna and a stunning relaxation lounge.

Sir George Iacobescu, Chairman and CEO Canary Wharf Group, believes that the scheme will become a highly desirable place to live. 'Being close to the river and in the centre of London's cultural hub, the design and outstanding quality of Belvedere Gardens will not only promote a sense of wellbeing, it will combine the vibrant community with the creation of wonderful social spaces and intelligently designed gardens.'

Many public realm initiatives are set to benefit new residents and workers

Taking inspiration from the lawns and majestic trees of nearby Lincoln's Inn Fields, London's largest residential square, landscape architect Gustafson Porter, known for the Princess of Wales memorial in Hyde Park, has created a courtyard garden at the heart of a new residential development Lincoln Square by Lodha UK.

Comprising four North, East, South and West wings each with ten storeys, many of the studio and one to four bedroom apartments and penthouses have views of iconic London buildings including the Royal Courts of Justice and London School of Economics, and also has access to a 24-hour five star concierge.

Abhishek Lodha, Managing Director, Lodha Group, comments: 'Lincoln Square is a unique development that befits the area's impressive heritage. Through careful attention to detail and a focus on bringing residents together we hope to create a visionary scheme and community.' Prices range between £950,000 and £10m on the market with Knight Frank and CBRE.

POINTS OF VIEW

Your chance to own a little piece of history at Imperial Hall

A completely unique, Grade II listed, two bedroom apartment arranged over three floors and set within this landmark historical building by Old Street. The accommodation comprises of two double bedrooms, two bathrooms, one of which is en-suite, a kitchen, two reception rooms, and the original copper clad dome, which is currently accessible via a spiral staircase from the lounge.

The 180 degree view reception room with original windows offers access to two private rooftop terraces, one on either side, plus access out to a larger communal terrace. The property is on the market for sale with full planning permission in place to reconfigure the kitchen into the adjacent reception room with Juliette balcony and internal upgrade of the dome. Additional benefits include a gated, covered off street parking space, daytime concierge service and recently refurbished communal areas.

Imperial Hall, City Road, Old Street; Guide Price: £1,675,000 with Savills Shoreditch; 020 7578 6200

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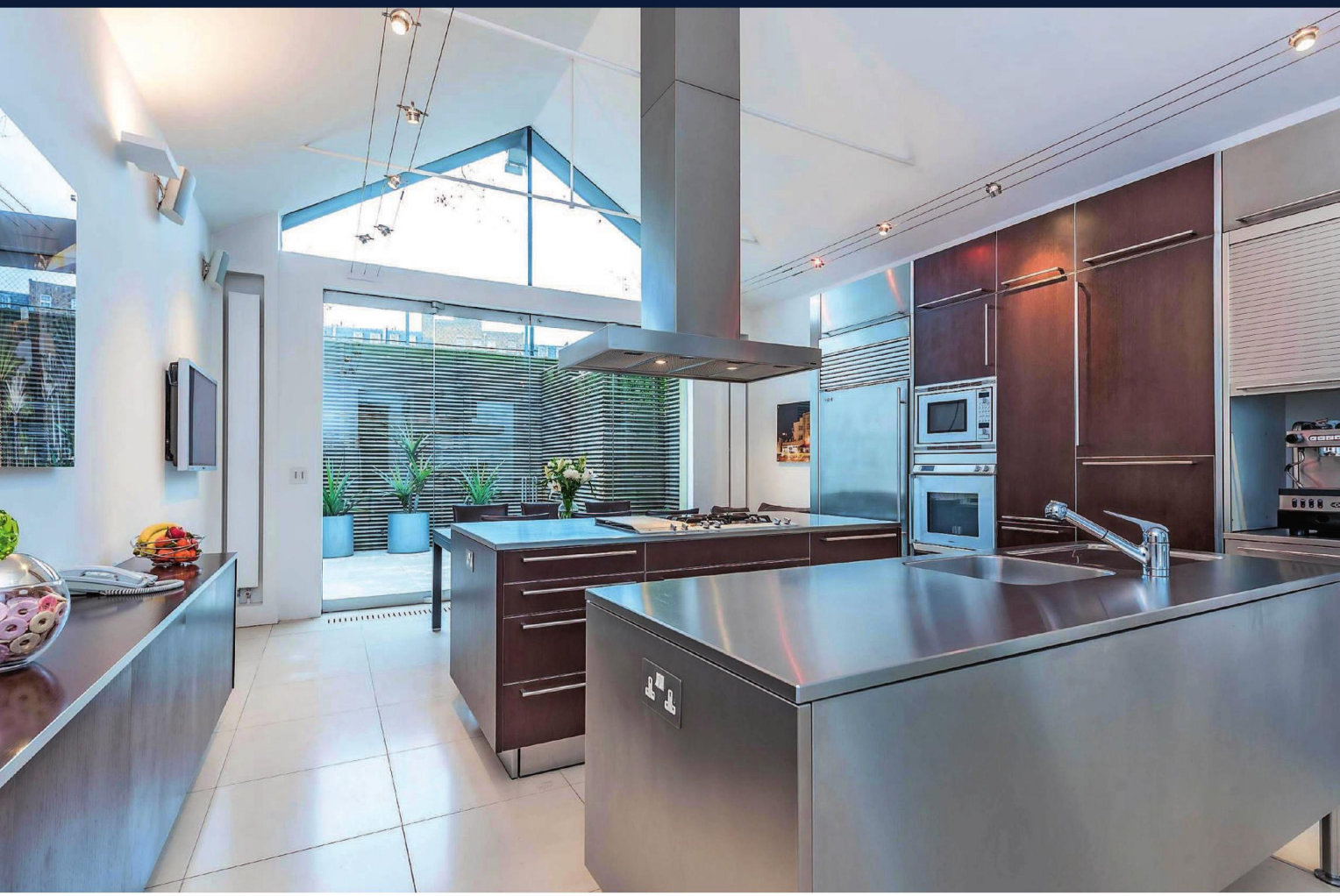

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St Pauls Place, N1

£3,750,000

A beautiful double fronted, five bedroom period house located on St Pauls Place. This intriguing property was extended with the addition of a Victorian tile factory creating this extremely large family home. There are three reception rooms, four bathrooms and a secluded decked garden, energy rating e.

Dexters Islington 020 7483 6373

Hartham Road, N7

£1,980,000

A five bedroom terraced house set on a tree lined road. This house has a classic layout as a family home with an open plan kitchen/reception leading directly to a south-east facing garden. Hartham Road is well located between popular locations such as Islington, Tufnell Park, and Camden Town, energy rating d.

Dexters Tufnell Park 020 7267 5500

dexters.co.uk

Dexters

Adams Row, W1K
£8,000 per week

A truly unique four bedroom Mayfair property. Currently owner occupied, this property was completely remodelled throughout to include a private gym, cinema, terrace and garage, energy rating g.

Dexters Mayfair 020 7590 9595

Chequer Street, EC1Y
£1,925 per week

A smart warehouse conversion in Clerkenwell with three double bedrooms, an open plan kitchen/reception room, integral garage and private gym, energy rating c.

Dexters Clerkenwell 020 7483 6370

Hungerford Road, N7
£1,500 per week

A newly-built four double bedroom detached eco-house with stylish high-specification interior, rear courtyard, private gated entrance and off street parking spaces, energy rating b.

Dexters Islington 020 7483 6374

City Road, EC1V
£950 per week

A brand new, two double bedroom apartment located on the 16th floor of the highly sought after Canaletto Tower. The development offers 24 hour concierge, gym, sauna and swimming pool, energy rating c.

Dexters Clerkenwell 020 7483 6370

Tenants fees apply: £180 per tenancy towards administration, £60 reference fee per tenant and £144 towards the end of tenancy check out report (all inc VAT).

Morton Road

Islington N1

A stunning 3 double bedroom Victorian mid-terraced house, set within this popular residential side turning, to the east of Essex Road & within the East Canonbury conservation area.

EPC rating F

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Elfort Road
Highbury N5

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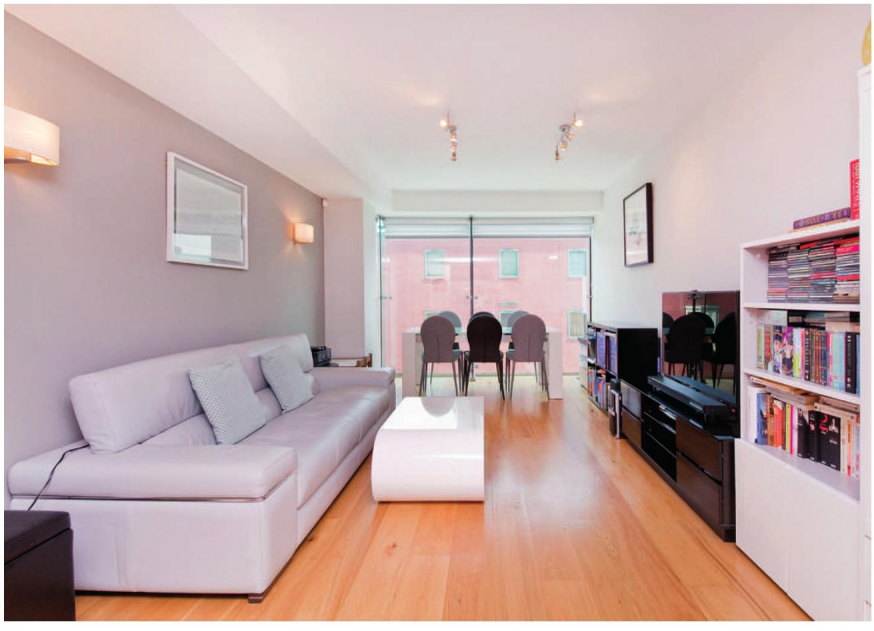

The Angelis, N1

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currell.com

Currell

Shepherdess Walk, N1

£2,600,000 Share of Freehold

Converted loft penthouse | Three bedrooms | Industrial features | Parking | Close to Old Street | Epc: D

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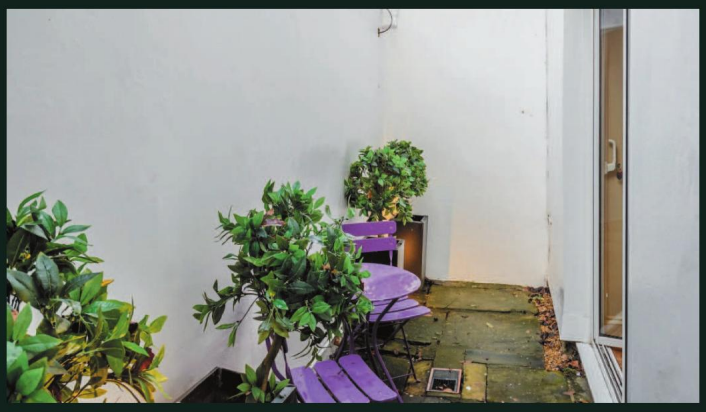

College Cross, Islington, N1

Set out over the lower ground floor of this impressive property, this well-proportioned apartment is ideally located for both Angel & Highbury

A bright and well-presented apartment, the property combines a period façade with a later more contemporary addition to the rear. 2 bedrooms, bathroom, large reception room, semi open plan kitchen and private patio. The apartment is accessed via the communal gardens which are off Barnsbury Street.
EPC: D. Aproximately 64 sq m (689 sq ft)

Share of Freehold

Guide Price: £795,000

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